

## Reviewer Report

**Title:** Citation needed? Wikipedia bibliometrics during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Version:** Original Submission    **Date:** 5/13/2021

**Reviewer name:** Dariusz Jemielniak

### Reviewer Comments to Author:

This is a very solid article on a timely topic. I also commend you for the thorough and meticulous methodology.

One thing that I believe you could amplify on is what would your proposed solution to the "trade off between timeliness and scientificness"? After all, Wikipedia relies on the sources that are reliable, verifiable, but foremostly... available. At the time when there are no academic journal articles published (yet) the chosen modus operandi does not appear to be a trade-off, it is basically the only logical solution. A trade-off would occur if the less valuable sources were not replaced when more academic ones appear, and this is not the case.

I believe you should mention the fact that Wikipedia has an agreement with Cochrane database, which likely affects the popularity of this source.

Additionally, I think that the literature review needs to be expanded. There are already some publications about Wikipedia and COVID-19, as well as about medical coverage on Wikipedia (some non-exhaustive references added below). Moreover, Wikipedia has been a topic covered in GigaScience and it would be reasonable to reflect on the previous conversations in the journal in your publication.

Chrzanowski, J., SoÅ,ek, J., & Jemielniak, D. (2021). Assessing Public Interest Based on Wikipedia's Most Visited Medical Articles During the SARS-CoV-2 Outbreak: Search Trends Analysis. *Journal of medical Internet research*, 23(4), e26331.

Colavizza, G. (2020). COVID-19 research in Wikipedia. *Quantitative Science Studies*, 1-32.

Jemielniak, D. (2019). Wikipedia: Why is the common knowledge resource still neglected by academics?. *GigaScience*, 8(12), giz139.

Jemielniak, D., Masukume, G., & Wilamowski, M. (2019). The most influential medical journals according to Wikipedia: quantitative analysis. *Journal of medical Internet Research*, 21(1), e11429.

Kagan, D., Moran-Gilad, J., & Fire, M. (2020). Scientometric trends for coronaviruses and other emerging viral infections. *GigaScience*, 9(8), gaa085.

## Methods

Are the methods appropriate to the aims of the study, are they well described, and are necessary controls included? Choose an item.

## Conclusions

Are the conclusions adequately supported by the data shown? Choose an item.

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